

House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

Minutes of Meeting
2025 Regular Session
May 28, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Debbie Villio, chair of the House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in Room 6, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Debbie Villio, chair
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Chad Michael Boyer
Representative Vincent E. Cox, III
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Representative Dodie Horton
Representative Alonzo L. Knox
Representative Vanessa Caston LaFleur, vice chair
Representative Patricia "Pat" Moore
Representative Joy Walters
Representative Jeffrey Fons "Jeff" Wiley

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zachary Gonzalez, attorney
Dave Storment, attorney
Ross Richard, committee administrative assistant
Andrea Jerezano, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Harry Mulcahy, clerk
Don'Trae Davis, clerk
Amelia Carman, clerk
Janet Anthony, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 76 by Representative Moore

This is a continuation of the discussion on House Bill No. 76 from an earlier meeting held on May 7, 2025. Please check for the prior action to complete the record of discussion and motions on House Bill No. 76.

Representative Moore presented House Bill No. 76, which creates the crime of felony and misdemeanor intentional exposure to a sexually transmitted disease.

Representative Villio offered a motion to reconsider the amendments adopted by the committee at a meeting held on May 7, 2025. Without objection, the motion was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Representative Villio offered a motion to withdraw the amendments adopted by the committee at a meeting held on May 7, 2025. Without objection, the motion to withdraw was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Clarify that proposed law applies to incurable sexually transmitted diseases.
- (3) Clarify that the state of mind for this crime is when the conduct is committed knowingly and intentionally.
- (4) Add, as an element of proposed law, infection of an STD through any means or contact if the infected person knew he had an incurable sexually transmitted disease at the time of the exposure and the victim had not given consent.
- (5) Clarify that certain penalties of proposed law apply when the victim, rather than the offender, has been diagnosed with an intellectual disability.
- (6) Remove the burden of proof for asserting an affirmative defense relative to the knowledge of the person exposed to the sexually transmitted disease.
- (7) Remove proposed law provisions relative to lifetime supervision of the offender upon release from imprisonment.
- (8) Designate the felony violation of proposed law as a sex offense.

(9) Provide that proposed law applies to "infection" rather than "exposure".

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Adams, Bacala, Boyer, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

Lauren Jewett, 604 Sadie Avenue, Metairie, LA 70003, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

William Leighton, DSCC and 400K Residents, 140 Jessie Jones Drive, Benton, LA 71006, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

N. Dietz, Louisiana Coalition on Criminalization and Health, 1553 North Dorgenois Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

Rowan Sharp, 1718 Spain Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

Millicent Foster, 1934 Curtis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70807, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

Peyton Rose Michelle, Louisiana Trans Advocates, P.O. Box 90851, Lafayette, LA 70509, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

Antoinette J. Haynes, LCCH, 2814 Bell Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

Isolde Butler, 1731 Pine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

DeKeitra Griffin, LCCH, 6810 Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70806, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 76.

Representative Moore offered a motion to report House Bill No. 76 with amendments, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and House Bill No. 76 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 5 nays. Representatives Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Moore, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Villio, Adams, Knox, LaFleur, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support and 37 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 76.

Senate Bill No. 135 by Senator Abraham

Senator Abraham presented Senate Bill No. 135, which defines judicial agencies.

Representative Wiley offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 135 favorably. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 135 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 165 by Senator Miller

Senator Miller presented Senate Bill No. 165, which provides for the governance of the Juvenile Justice District and adds Lafourche Parish to the Juvenile Justice District.

Representative Fontenot offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Provide that one of the commissioners appointed by the sheriff of Lafourche Parish or the district attorney or chief judge of the 17th Judicial District shall be a member from the Lafourche Parish Juvenile Justice Commission.
- (3) Remove provisions of present law relative to the board's ability to enter into contracts for the management, administration, and operation of certain facilities.
- (4) Relative to the authority of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Board of Commissioners, provide that all employees shall be employed directly by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.
- (5) Relative to authorization of contracts of employment for a superintendent or administrator for certain services, provide that the superintendent or administrator shall be employed directly by the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.
- (6) Clarify how the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District is to fund its purposes in Lafourche Parish through existing ad valorem taxes.
- (7) Provide that any and all elections held by the district pursuant to present law (R.S. 15:1109.16) shall be held on a date that corresponds with a gubernatorial or congressional primary election as provided in present law (R.S. 18:402).
- (8) Provide for effective dates as follows:
 - (a) Upon a majority vote of Lafourche Parish to authorize a rededication of any ad valorem tax millage levied and collected as of June 1, 2025, to fund the purpose of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission.

(b) Upon signature of the governor.

Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments, to which Representative Bacala objected and offered a substitute motion to adopt the proposed amendments except for the amendment that would require the board of commissioners of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission to fund the purposes of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District from existing ad valorem taxes without a rededication of any ad valorem tax millage levied and collected as of June 1, 2025. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Fontenot offered an amendment to require the board of commissioners of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice Commission to fund the purposes of the River Parishes Juvenile Justice District from existing ad valorem taxes without a rededication of any ad valorem tax millage levied and collected as of June 1, 2025. Representative Fontenot offered a motion to adopt the amendment, to which Representative Bacala objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 1 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea. Representative Bacala voted nay.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 165.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 165 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 165 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Senate Bill No. 87 by Senator Barrow

Senator Barrow presented Senate Bill No. 87, which provides relative to notices of warrant of arrest of a person who fails to appear in court after release on bail.

Amy Mercieca, Operation Restoration, 1450 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 87.

Representative LaFleur offered amendments to make technical changes, define cash depositor, and add that the clerk shall also send a notice by certified mail to any cash depositor provided that the clerk has received the information necessary for service. Representative LaFleur offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Joseph Marino, former state representative, 200 Amelia Street, Gretna, LA 70053, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 87 and suggested an amendment to add a personal surety as an individual to receive notice.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to include a personal surety as an individual who is able to be released from all obligations under the bail undertaking when there is a failure to send notice pursuant to a notice of warrant for arrest. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Zach Daniels, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, no address provided, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 87.

Jill Dennis, Association of Supervised Ankle Monitor Providers, 723 South Dupre, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 87.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 87 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 87 was reported with amendments by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 11 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 95 by Senator Cloud

Senator Cloud presented Senate Bill No. 95, which provides relative to electronic monitoring of certain offenders.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Add the district attorney for the parish of prosecution, or the attorney general if acting as the district attorney ad hoc, to the present law list of recipients to be notified for the following:
 - (a) When an individual has been placed under electronic monitoring.
 - (b) Monthly reports from electronic monitoring service providers.
- (3) Relative to when a violation of the defendant's monitoring conditions has occurred:
 - (a) Add law enforcement agencies within the appropriate jurisdiction to the present law list of recipients to be notified.

- (b) Change the timeline to report a violation from within one day to immediately, but in no event not longer than thirty minutes from the provider's receipt of notice.
- (4) Permit rather than require the court to waive the cost of electronic monitoring in a juvenile matter and provide that such waiver is allowed in any other matter at the request of the entity that is otherwise responsible for the cost of monitoring.

Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Larry Frieman, chief deputy attorney general, 1885 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, spoke as the designee of an elected official in support of Senate Bill No. 95.

Christopher Walters, deputy executive counsel to Governor Landry, State Capitol, 4th Floor, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke as the designee of an elected official in support of Senate Bill No. 95.

Erica Peterson, 4438 Elba Street, New Orleans, LA 70125, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 95.

Jill Dennis, Association for Supervised Ankle Monitoring Providers, 723 South Dupre, New Orleans, LA 70119, spoke in support of Senate Bill No. 95.

Representative LaFleur is in the chair.

Meghan Garvey, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, P.O. Box 83, Baton Rouge, LA, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 95.

Lauren Hall, Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, 1100 Milton Street, New Orleans, LA 70112, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 95.

Representative Villio is in the chair.

Micah Gravley, Talitrix, no address provided, Alpharetta, Georgia, spoke for information only on Senate Bill No. 95.

Representative Knox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 95 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 95 was reported with amendments by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support, 7 in opposition, and 2 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 15 by Senator Morris

Senator Morris presented Senate Bill No. 15, which prohibits any act intended to hinder, delay, prevent, or otherwise interfere with or thwart federal immigration enforcement efforts.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to specify that the term of imprisonment for a violation of present law involving a civil immigration proceeding shall be with or without hard labor. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Representative Villio offered an amendment to specify that a person has to knowingly commit any act intended to hinder, delay, prevent, or otherwise interfere with or thwart federal immigration enforcement efforts. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Tia Fields, NAACP and Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants, 12163 Strauss, Baton Rouge, LA 70811, spoke in opposition to Senate Bill No. 15.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 15 with amendments, to which Representative Walters objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and Senate Bill No. 15 was reported with amendments by a vote of 7 yeas and 4 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, and Wiley voted yea. Representatives Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 8 in support and 39 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 650 by Representative Jordan

Representative Villio offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 650, which increases the state tax levied on certain gaming and dedicates the proceeds of the tax for certain purposes. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 650 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 by Representative Villio

Representative Villio presented House Concurrent Resolution No. 35, which requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to conduct a review of "Duncan misdemeanors" that are located throughout the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

Representative Villio offered a motion to report House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 favorably. Without objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 35 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Senate Bill No. 125 by Senator Owen

On behalf of Senator Owen, Representative Bacala presented Senate Bill No. 125, which provides relative to explosives.

Representative Knox offered amendments to:

- (1) Make technical changes.
- (2) Define the term "enhanced security zone".
- (3) Provide that any person who manufactures or possesses a bomb within an enhanced security zone or at a parade or demonstration for which a permit is issued by a governmental entity shall be fined not more than \$20,000, imprisoned at hard labor for not less than twenty years, or both.

Representative Knox offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Representative Cox offered a motion to report Senate Bill No. 125 with amendments. Without objection, Senate Bill No. 125 was reported with amendments by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, and Walters voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 419 by Representative Amedee

Representative Amedee presented House Bill No. 419, which creates the crime of intentional exposure to a self-spreading pathogen.

On behalf of the author, Representative Villio offered an amendment to make technical changes. Representative Villio offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the

amendment was adopted by a vote of 11 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, Knox, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Jill Hines, Health Freedom LA, 1307 Mesa Avenue, Ruston, LA 71270, spoke in support of House Bill No. 419.

Representative Bacala offered an amendment to change "intentionally expose to a self-spreading pathogen" to "intentionally release a self-spreading pathogen". Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives Villio, Bacala, Cox, Fontenot, Horton, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted yea.

Zach Daniels, executive director, Louisiana District Attorneys Association, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, spoke in opposition to House Bill No. 419.

Representative Horton offered a motion to report House Bill No. 419 with amendments, to which Representative LaFleur objected. The administrative assistant called the roll, and the motion failed to pass by a vote of 2 yeas and 8 nays. Representatives Bacala and Horton voted yea. Representatives Villio, Boyer, Cox, Fontenot, LaFleur, Moore, Walters, and Wiley voted nay.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 2 in support and 4 in opposition. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Prepared statements were received via email for House Bill No. 419.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Debbie Villio
House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice